

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-22 and 50-66 are pending for consideration by the Examiner, and claims 23-49 are canceled. New dependent claims 50-66 have been added and depend from elected claims 1-22.

The Examiner has required election of one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-22, drawn to a stapler having a specific former assembly.
- II. Claims 23-36, drawn to a stapler having a specific bend plate assembly.
- III. Claims 37-49, drawn to a stapler having a specific driver assembly.

The Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-22, without traverse and with leave for filing one or more divisional applications in the future. The Applicants have added new dependent claims 50-66, which depend from claims in elected Group I, and are therefore appropriate for consideration with claims 1-22.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



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